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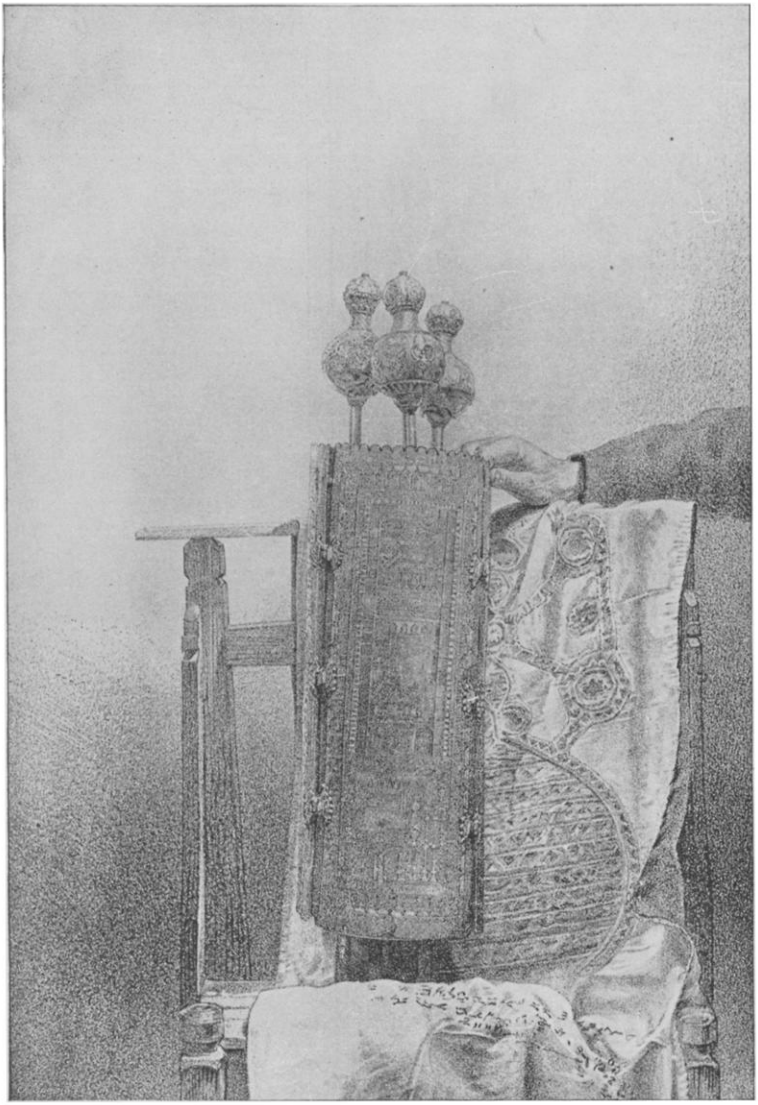
Exploration and Discovery.

GERMAN ACTIVITY IN ORIENTAL EXPLORATIONS.

THE last decade has seen the rise of a new era in German oriental scholarship. Within this period Germany has had new visions of the immense values of the nearer Orient, and she has not been slow to devise practical plans for the realization of these wholly realizable hints to duty.

The assurance of success of all their schemes for the extension of exploration and excavation was plainly evident from the start. It was not the mere plan and execution of an individual—for many such plans have been entertained in Germany by some of its leading archæological scholars for decades—that have made the whole enterprise such an astounding success. But it is, like similar and wisely devised plans of co-operation in France and England, the result of the energy and perseverance of scholars and the hearty and enthusiastic support of the government. "The powers that be" make at least two invaluable contributions to the success of the work which our good German neighbors and scholars are doing in Asia and Africa. In the first place, the diplomatic service of the empire is most successful in securing the necessary permits for the prosecution of excavations at such places as the archæologists after careful consideration recommend. Diplomatic and local difficulties of various kinds are greatly minimized by the active practical interest of the efficient servants of the government located in the region of excavations. Barring political and local embarrassments, excavators have a free hand to bend all their efforts toward the largest results.

The second pre-eminent aid rendered by the German government to the widespread activity of the German Orient Society is in the nature of a liberal financial subsidy. For the complete success of excavations at any particular point the financial consideration is essential and imperative. The most liberal concessions for conducting excavations, the presence of the ablest directors, and the guaranteed safety of the campaign will achieve meager results without a liberal financial support in the field. A fully equipped expedition encamped near its mound represents a large initial expense. Having reached this point, it is now ready either by liberal support to put a large force of laborers to work to reach its highest ambition, or by a cramped support to give few laborers work and so achieve little or nothing.



THE SAMARITAN PENTATEUCH.

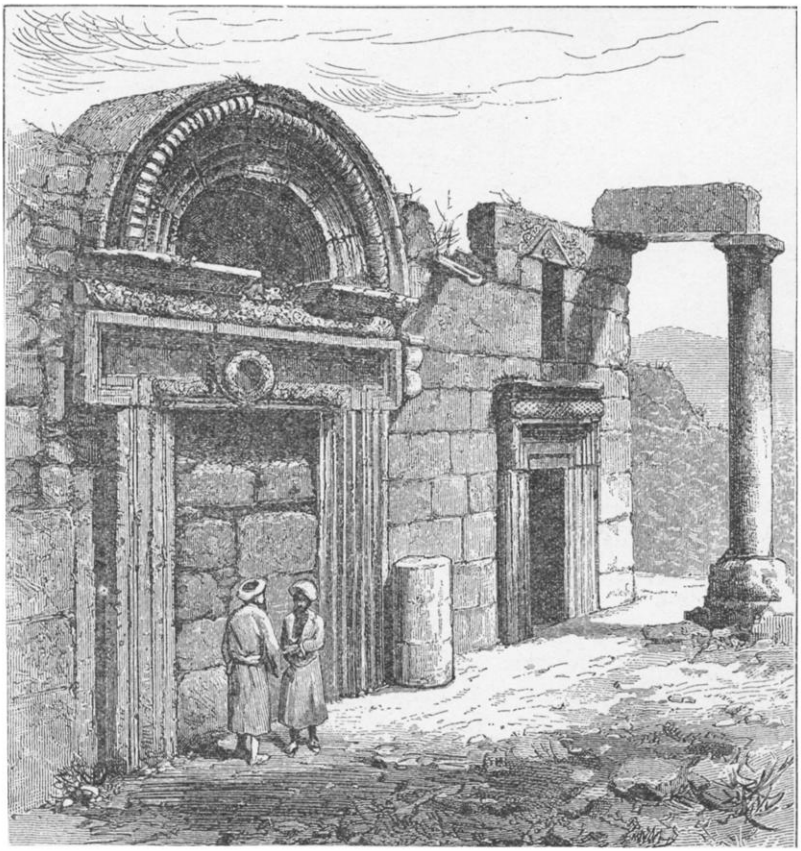
An ancient parchment roll, containing the first five books of the Old Testament, inclosed in a silver case, preserved and counted sacred by the few remaining Samaritans at Nablûs, in Palestine.

These two governmental encouragements and supports of German archæological enterprise in biblical lands have opened vast treasures of ancient remains in the past five years. They have already contributed considerable areas to the ancient historical and archæological world. The full significance of these finds, however, will not be known until the scholars of Germany publish them. The official bulletins of the German Orient Society deal almost entirely with the externals—the trips overland from this place to that, the physiographical condition of certain localities, and the personnel of the expeditions. But enough of the facts of excavations, some good illustrations and maps, and an occasional inscription, tell us that these are simply foretastes of what shall be made known when all the material they now have in hand shall be made public.

The field activity of the German Orient Society is undertaken only after careful and broadly planned preliminary work. An example of this careful preview of the possibilities of various sites for excavation is seen in the methods of the Palestinian reconnoitering party of last year. This party was made up of archæologists who were carefully examining the most available and promising sites for excavations. A popular description of some of these localities and ruins and customs has been running through a series of articles in the *Allgemeine Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirchenzeitung*. The first four of these articles are, (1) "Jericho," (2) "The Terebinths of Mamre," (3) "The Galilean Synagogues," (4) "Shechem and Surroundings." The flavor of these articles is deliciously agreeable. While they are written by scholars, they are put in such delightfully popular form as to carry the reader from the first sentence through to the last period. They begin with a picturesque description of the roads or highways that lead in the direction taken by the expedition toward the particular site under survey. Now and then the writer weaves in little threads of historical incidents connected with places on the line of travel, and thus adroitly breaks up the monotony of a mere diary of travel. When the locality to be examined has been reached, the narrative falls back into a kind of historical geography of the place. This is done in no technical and grotesque fashion, nor merely to display a statistical summary of the past, but to arouse in the mind of the reader an idea of the especial importance of a study of this particular site.

The setting of these articles is so skilfully done that the reader must invariably decide, after having read one of them, that this one ruin is the most important in all Palestine for archæological study. One of the best of these presented is that on the dozen ruins of great synagogues in northeastern Galilee. The writer in a very happy way shows the reader the

character of these ruins, their significance, and what these synagogues meant for that country when they were in active use. The articles are worth quite as much for what they lead one to infer, as for what they say in so many words.



RUINS OF A SYNAGOGUE AT KEFR BIR'IM.

But the real purpose of all these popular articles seems to reach farther than merely to entertain the readers of the *Allgemeine Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirchenzeitung*. Germany's great archæological advance is infectious. Besides the scholars and government, the interest is filtering down among the most intelligent "laymen." These articles will arouse such a popular and general interest among the "laity" in archæological lore that new desires and new means will be forthcoming for the most

active prosecution of excavations in the Orient. The addition of new "lay" forces to those already at work will mean an immense gain to the enlargement and efficiency of the German Orient Society.

The *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft zu Berlin*, for December, 1903, is a pamphlet of forty-two pages. It contains extracts from the letters and reports of directors in the Palestinian and Mesopotamian fields of excavations reaching down to October 27, 1903; also an article of twelve pages by Professor Friedrich Delitzsch on "Assur." Eight half-tones give the reader just what he wants to make real some bits of antiquities brought to light, and some of the larger ruins and landscapes of the fields of excavations.

The first report is that of Dr. Stumme, on the further results of work at *Tell el-Mutesellim* in the plain of Jezreel, in the spring of 1903. This mound was excavated under the directorship of Dr. G. Schumacher and under the joint auspices of the German Palestinian *Verein* and the German Orient Society. The overwhelming importance of this *Tell* is seen in the fact that it stands near by or upon the great caravan and army routes that passed north and south through this plain in ancient times. It stands near the southern side of this plain, and from its summit one has a wide stretch of horizon. In ancient times the site was particularly attractive to kings and government officials who erected either here or on the adjoining hills stately palaces and residences. To many this ruin identifies itself as Megiddo.

Dr. Schumacher began excavations at that point April 1, and concluded them May 29, 1903—just two months' work. He employed during the most of this time one hundred and fourteen laborers and five overseers at about ten hours a day. The results of the work do not stand in the first rank, but they have a certain amount of importance and significance for the study of the history of the city of Megiddo.

The work of excavation was begun on the east side of the mound. The first portion of ruins struck is supposed to be remains of a city gate. It was not entirely uncovered, but enough was laid bare to show without doubt its Jewish origin. There are also traces of double walls, an aqueduct, and small cisterns—these latter apparently of late Jewish origin. On this same east side there were found the remains of a quadrangular building of about six meters on a side. Within these were three *Maṣṣeboth*, or pillars. Two of these were two and one-quarter meters high, and about three and one-half meters apart. A third about one-half as high stood near by. In a space near the *Masseboth* were discovered three urns for offerings. These were filled with the skeletons of very young children. In all three urns the head of the child was on the bottom of the vessel. In close proximity

to these they picked up a burnt-clay idol fifty-four centimeters long, thought by the presence about it of other finds, and of eyes and amulets of green porcelain, to be of Egyptian origin. At other points in the excavations they found other urns containing the remains of children. One full-grown skeleton was also brought to light.

On the south side they opened a well-preserved mausoleum or burial vault, wherein were ten skeletons of adults. These evidently died a violent death, for the remains of the bones show traces of cutting and wounds, and the skeletons were lying on their faces. On this same side, at thirty centimeters' depth, they dug up an Egpytian head of burnt-red clay, and a vessel for offerings made of dolerite. Another notable little object picked up there was a small brick stamp, with peculiar unknown characters upon it. Most of these finds represent the work done in the month of April, 1903.

During the remaining time they attempted to lay bare the remains of the walls of the city. On the east side of the mound they sunk a shaft seventeen meters deep and struck a fine wall of unburnt brick, and at nineteen to twenty meters two walls built of field stone, without yet reaching bed-rock. On the south side several Egpytian objects were found in the recesses of a building of considerable proportions. At the same time some work was done at *el-Leddschon*, lying a little to the south of *Tell el-Mutesellim*. On several of the bricks found there was found an inscription LEG VI PR, thought to mark the camp of the sixth Roman legion. The name *el-Leddschon* is, of course, the Latin word *legio*, or Greek λεγεών. On a hill between these two points of excavation they found the distinct remains of a theater.

On May 29, the beginning of harvest time, the laborers returned to their farms, and excavations were discontinued. By the genuine interest of Emperor William a subvention of state funds was granted, and on September 22, 1903, excavations at these points were continued under the direction of Dr. Benzinger. Although reports have been sent in, none has yet reached me.

The second and third divisions of this December issue are letters descriptive first, of a trip of W. Andræ from Damascus to Mosul; and second, of Dr. Robert Koldewey from Babylon to Mosul — both during August, 1903. They were on their way to excavate at *Kalat Schirgat*, the supposed site of ancient Assur. The fourth piece of narrative is a compilation of selections from five letters of Dr. Koldewey covering the time from September 23 to October 27, 1903.

Within those five weeks several extremely interesting discoveries were made—of which, of course, we are given only a hint. One of these here

described is that of the wall of the quay of Adad-nirari, son of Pudi-ilu, on the east side of the city, adjacent to the river Tigris. This wall was built of burnt bricks laid in mortar and asphalt, and was supported by an inner wall of large limestone blocks. In this area were found four burnt-clay stamps of Adad-nirari, thirty-three centimeters square and seven centimeters thick. One of these carried on its surface a one-line inscription, one three lines, one four lines, and one five lines. The three-line stamp reads as follows: "Palace of Adad-nirari, king of multitudes, son of Pudi-ilu, king of the land of Assyria, son of Bel-nirari, king of the land of Assyria."

Very early in his work here Dr. Koldewey had trouble with his laborers and guards. They demanded double the usual wages paid for such work. But vigorous action soon restored quiet, and the work progressed without interruption.

A trench cut from east to west about twenty-five meters, or as far as the ruin of the *zigurrat*, brought to light some very encouraging evidences of the importance of this site. Among these were enameled ornaments of a very elaborate description. The brick stamps found in this area are: (1) one of the palace of Shalmaneser I. (1320 B. C.); (2) one of Asurnasirpal (884–860 B. C.); (3) and several of the palace of Tukulti-Ninib, king of multitudes, son of Shalmaneser, king of multitudes (1302 B. C.). These articles were found, not *in situ*, but scattered about. They point at least to this place as within the area of palaces of the kings. Other articles of an inscriptional character were found in this same trench, containing the names of Sennacherib and Esarhaddon. In fact, the extracts of the letters published in this issue of the *Mitteilungen* indicate that as high as 197 bits of antiquities that were regarded as valuable enough to register had been found, aside from the remains of walls, pavements, canal beds, and other immovable marks of ancient structures of several kinds.

The concluding section of this December number is a discussion by Professor Friedrich Delitzsch of "Assur," the ancient name of the site now being excavated at *Kalat Schirgat*. This article discusses briefly, very briefly, some of the things found by Koldewey, and then gives a succinct history of the place as we know it from the hitherto known references to it in the literature of Assyria. Of course, he realizes that we shall probably soon be in condition to rewrite the history of this once first city of ancient Assyria. German success at this mound is assured from the outset, and a flood of new light on Assyrian history may be expected as soon as the finds are given to the eager public.

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